



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Utility Bill Scam

Riverside, California — The Riverside Police Department is urging community members to be watchful for a Utility Bill scam where victims are told to provide a credit card or bank account number to keep their utility services from being shut off.

This scam has been going on in different parts of the country for several years. Riverside residents are now being contacted by scammers that claim to be with the “City of Riverside.” The scammer tells the victim that their account is past due and their service will be stopped. The scammer attempts to get a bank account number or credit card so the bill can be paid over the phone. Once the bank or credit card information is provided, the scammer can take as much money as is available from the victim’s account.

Riverside residents who have been contacted by these scammers noted that Caller ID showed a New York area code. However, there are several technologies and methods that allow scammers to conceal the actual area code and number they are calling from.

The suspects in these cases often live in other countries. Once the victim’s bank account or credit card information is provided, the money is immediately withdrawn. It is unlikely that the funds will be recovered if the victim willingly provides their bank or credit card info.

Community members are being urged to contact the City of Riverside “Credit and Collections” department at (951) 826-5835 if they receive a suspicious phone call regarding their utility bill or have any questions about an overdue account.